

Pupukea Marine Life Conservation District
Task Force Meeting #3
November 10, 1999 Discussion Notes

I. Interim Activity Reports by Task Force Members:

- The community representative reported that in an informal poll of participating realtors: 100% of members present favored total conservation of the area from Waimea to Sharks Cove for a five year period, subject to evaluation and review.
- Also, members of the Haleiwa Mainstreet similarly favored a total ban on subject activities in the above-referenced area. In another “poll” some respondents favored inclusion of scuba within the proposed conservation area. (Marlu to provide more specific information regarding the “poll” with particular attention to clarifying whether respondents were supportive of commercial or non-commercial scuba activities.)
- The recreational fishing member indicated that 840 signatures had been collected from individuals supportive of pole fishing and limu gathering in the proposed MLCD.
- The North Shore Neighborhood Board has been apprised of this Task Force’s discussions to date.
- Per discussion at a recreational divers meeting: Fisheries Management Areas on the Big Island have been divided into zones, which permit different types of activity. This allows for monitoring the area for impact associated with different uses.
- Task Force Members Marlu Oliphant-West and Dave Hara offered to provide additional information regarding the numbers of individuals present, questions posed in the various meetings/polls referenced, and copies of signatures collected. Task Force Member Oliphant-West, also agreed to try to clarify whether supporters of scuba in the proposed MLCD favored commercial and/or non-commercial scuba activity.

General FISHING Discussion Points:

- The Task Force should consider the possibility of setting up different areas along the coastline, which permitted different types of activities. Monitoring of the impact of allowed activities should be monitored over a specific period of time with the intent of revisiting the rules for modification or permanent adoption based on the findings.
- Pole fishing should be permitted in the MLCD involving the use of 1 pole and two hooks/person – as is permitted in the Haleiwa harbor.
- The area should be opened up to allow picking Limu Kohu on the reef. This permits individuals to gather limu during the brief periods of availability. It would be important to prevent over picking by an individual at the expense of others. Proper collection methods should be noted to avoid compromising habitats or inhibiting regrowth of limu.
- Spear fishing and netting should be banned up to 500 yards out.

II. GATHERING DISCUSSION POINTS:

Task Force members reviewed and discussed current rules as well as earlier lines of testimony which resulted in the current rules:

- There are many different types of limu.
- There is roughly a 2-week “window” of availability of Limu Kohu. This occurs around May or June after the subsidence of surf followed by sunny weather conditions.
- Limu is considered a Hawaiian staple.
- Limu gathering has played a role in ritual, customs and past practices for generations.
- Gathering is considered to have the lowest level of impact of extractive uses under discussion.
- The types of limu, which are plentiful, are generally not palatable to fish.
- Limu should be clipped with scissors as opposed to being pulled off surfaces by the roots.

GATHERING RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Task Force members present voted unanimously:
- Limu Kohu and Pe‘epe‘e only are subject to the recommendations for gathering.
- The area affected includes Sharks Cove, Three Tables and Two Islands.
- Leave language in the recommended rules regarding “Hold Fast”
- Permit gathering of 2 pounds of limu per person per day (after excess water has been squeezed out)

III. SPEAR FISHING DISCUSSION:

Task Force members reviewed and discussed current rules as well as earlier lines of testimony which resulted in the current rules:

SPEAR FISHING RECOMMENDATIONS:

Task Force members present voted unanimously:

- The Rules should be changed.
- No Spear Fishing should be allowed in the MLCD.
- No Transiting should be permitted.
- No spear fishing gear should be allowed in the MLCD.
- Gaffs would not be permitted, though knives would be permitted for personal safety.

IV. NETTING DISCUSSION:

Task Force members reviewed and discussed current rules as well as earlier lines of testimony which resulted in the current rules:

- The proposed MLCD area was not viewed as an essential or exclusive source for species associated with netting.

NETTING RECOMMENDATIONS:

Task Force members present voted unanimously:

- No throw, Scoop, or gill netting permitted in the MLCD.
- There needs to be an acknowledgement of the County's jurisdiction.
- Seek the County's concurrence with Task Force recommendations for the Tide Pool area in its jurisdiction. Don't allow any netting in this area either.
- A buffer area or zone should be considered along boundaries to limit netters setting right outside the protected areas and/or chasing fish in.

V. POLE & LINE DISCUSSION:

Task Force members reviewed and discussed current rules as well as earlier lines of testimony which resulted in the current rules:

- This is the only area on the North Shore that could Limit or prohibit Pole and Line fishing.
- Pole and Line Fishing could be considered permissible at Waimea Bay if it becomes part of the MLCD (to offset the loss of access in the proposed MLCD area).
- Consider drawing a line between Three Tables and Sharks Cove.
- Could netting be stopped in Waimea?
- Consider initiating the creation of another MLCD outside of this one.
- This is the only place to fish for Akule without using a Boat. Catch is often shared – not taken for sale.
- Consider use of zones A/B as in the example discussed from the Big Island for a period of 5 years subject to review.
- Maintain Akule access at Three Tables – pole and line at Waimea Bay, ban pole & line fishing on Sharks Cove side.
- Although pole & Line fishing is a low-impact method of extraction. Practiced in large enough numbers, it could make a dent.
- Line entanglement around coral and debris left behind is problematic.
- Akule have always run at Sharks Cove. It's a gathering rights issue.
- Create compensatory pole/line areas where netters are not allowed to deplete schools.
- There are conservation and mixed use issues to consider.
- If pole and line fishing allowed, how can adverse impact be minimized?
- Consider reducing netting in other areas?
- Akule-specific pole & line gear could be permitted –other types excluded.
- Consider permitting Akule Pole & Line fishing in the proposed MLCD. Require release of other species and prohibit other gear.
- There is value in having one pristine area for control purposes.
- Pole & Line could be contingent upon expansion of the MLCD.
- Consider MLCD at Kaena – only boat accessible.

- Waimea is popular fishing site for older persons.

POLE & LINE FISHING RECOMMENDATIONS:

Task Force members reviewed and discussed current rules as well as earlier lines of testimony which resulted in the current rules:

The task force determined that it would defer formal voting on recommendations until a future meeting.

VI. NEXT STEPS:

Change Task Force Meeting Dates to December 1, 1999 at 6:30 p.m. and December 15th same time. Both meetings will be held at Waimea Falls Park. The date changes were proposed to accommodate a schedule conflict for a Task Force Member and to complete the Task Force work before the commencement of the Legislative session in January 2000.

Proposed Agenda:

- Revisit and complete Pole and Line Discussion
- Address Boundaries Issues
- Address Boating and Commercial Diving as time permits
- Presentation by Ray Bealty, commercial boat operator. (Contingent upon his availability)

Pre Closing Discussion:

- There are too many signs
- Can Suntan lotion use be discouraged via signage?
- Can existing signage be relocated to where people are walking down the paths?
- Collection tank for showers to pool fresh water and limit runoff.

A field trip was suggested.